



Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

Affiliated with International Association of Fire Fighters AFL-CIO and Massachusetts AFL-CIO Council

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May 23, 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: PS Docket No. 07-8; CC Docket No. 94-102; WT Docket Nos.
03-264; 06-150, 06-169 and 96-86; EB Docket No. 06-119.

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts (PFFM), I am writing to request your support for auction rules which would establish a National Public Safety Broadband Network. With the upcoming 700 MHz auction, our nation has a unique opportunity to use a contiguous block of frequencies in the upper 700 MHz band to provide public safety with an advanced, nationwide communications network while harnessing the economic benefits of a shared public/private partnership with commercial wireless operators. Most important, for the first time, first responders will be in control of our communications network that will put us permanently where we belong — at the forefront of telecommunications innovation. America's first responders and others directly involved with protecting our homeland deserve nothing less. Lives will depend on it.

The PFFM respectfully requests the FCC:

- Create a 10MHz or larger "E Block" of the 700MHz band currently scheduled for auction by the FCC under the DTV Transition Act;
- Require the winner of the auction of this E Block to have a binding agreement with Public Safety for its participation in the National Public Safety Broadband Network *before* receiving their license;

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- License Public Safety's spectrum to a stand alone entity consisting of Public Safety leaders who will control the network and ensure it will be built to the standards of reliability and redundancy that Public Safety requires;
- Ensure that Public Safety is placed in charge of the National Public Safety Broadband Network and not subordinate to the E Block auction winner;
- Support a public/private partnership and provide Public Safety with the ability to build-out in rural and underserved areas;
- Ensure access to a satellite overlay to extend the reach of Public Safety's network;
- Direct the auction winner that the Public Safety system be kept "evergreen" to stay competitive on the commercial side and to ensure the highest level of technology to public safety users.

Respectfully, we share a goal to advance the interests of the citizens of Massachusetts. The opportunity to build a nationwide broadband network that not only enables public safety to achieve true interoperability but will deploy broadband technologies in our rural areas is in the best interests of the people of Massachusetts and the United States and is, therefore, of paramount importance to us.

Thank you, in advance, for your support.

Sincerely,

Bob McCarthy
President

Copy to: The Honorable John Kerry
The Honorable Edward Markey
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
FCC Secretary Marlene H. Dortch